



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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DISTRICT MAN SENTENCED TO 40 YEARS FOR KILLING ***– Shot Victim in the Middle of Ninth Street NW–***

WASHINGTON - Damone Williams, 22, has been sentenced to 40 years of imprisonment for a premeditated murder that occurred in December 2006 near Ninth and U Streets NW, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Williams, of Washington, D.C., earlier was convicted by a jury of first degree premeditated murder while armed, possession of a firearm during a crime of violence, and unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He was sentenced November 5, 2010 by the Honorable Judge Michael L. Rankin in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

The case stemmed from the murder of Preston Johns, 29, in the 1700 block of 9th Street NW. At sentencing, the victim's mother and girlfriend wept as they spoke on his behalf.

According to evidence presented at trial, in the late hours of December 15, 2006, Williams was selling drugs – while armed with a firearm – near the intersection of 9th and U Streets NW. When police cars drove through the block, Williams left the area, leaving his pistol stashed behind to avoid being caught with it. After the police left the area, he returned to discover that his pistol was missing. A witness quoted Williams as stating that he believed Johns had stolen his gun, and that he was going to “burn him up” in revenge.

Approximately three hours later, early December 16, 2006, Williams, Johns and a third person were seen walking down the 1700 block of 9th Street, two blocks from where Williams's pistol had been stolen. Moments later, the sound of gunshots rang throughout the block, and an eyewitness observed Williams with a pistol in his hand standing over the body of the victim.

When police arrived, the decedent's body was found alone in the middle of 9th Street NW. No eyewitnesses to the actual shooting were ever found. However, through diligent and thorough investigative work, the lead detective on the case, Metropolitan Police Department Detective Kostantinos Giannakoulis, with the assistance of other members of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), identified and located several witnesses to the events before and

immediately after the murder over the course of the next year and secured their presence and testimony before a D.C. Superior Court grand jury. Upon identifying Williams as the murderer, Detective Giannakoulis then immediately obtained an arrest warrant for him that led to his arrest on February 14, 2008.

In announcing the result, U.S. Attorney Machen commended MPD Detectives Kostantinos Giannakoulis and Thomas Webb of the Violent Crimes Branch, Officer Matthew Romeo, and Evidence Technicians Kemper Agee, Dwayne Mitchell, and Charles Graham. He also expressed his appreciation to Intelligence Specialist Lawrence Grasso, Paralegals Kalisha Johnson-Clark and Ethel Gregory, Litigation Support Specialists Leif Hickling and Kimberly Smith, Victim Witness Security Specialists Katina Adams, Michael Hailey, Tanya Via, and David Foster, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Pat Martin and Chris Kavanaugh, who investigated, indicted, and tried the case.

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